Association of Montana Turf, Ornamental, and Pest Professionals - (AMTOPP)

Summer Workshops/Conference

July 26-27 Butte, MT

CEU's
Montana Dept of Ag
ISA
TCIA/CTSP

Join us for 2 days of inside/outside classes and hands on training.

Instructors

Jared Arbojena, Lawrence Shultz, and Johnny Korthius (Academy Trained)

Spencer Andrews (FMI Equipment)
Tom Molitor (BIG TWIG Forestry)
Dave Stice (WesSpur/Ascension Northwest)
Nick Merriman (Merriman's Northwest LLC)
Patrick Plantenberg (MUCFA)
Hannah Hampton (Rainbow Ecoscience)
Michael Weible, Mike Gilley (Altec Industries)

2 Day Courses

- Rigging Operations
- Basic Tree Climbing
- Ground Crew Academy - (Aerial Lift Setup/inspection/ operation, Ground Based Operations, Chipper Safety, Small Tree Planting/Pruning)
- Plant Health Care

Equipment Demonstrations

Pre-Registration Required

Register Online - www.amtopp.org
(click on Summer Workshop)

The event will be held at four parks.

Check in at - Stodden Park
600 Gilman Ave, Butte, MT 59701

Lunches, water/energy drinks and snacks provided.

4 Hotels set up with group rates.

Limited Space for Courses - Sign Up Now

instructors and topics subject to change without notice

Fees:

Rigging Operations
$650 AMTOPP members
$775 for non members

Basic Tree Climbing
$400 AMTOPP members
$525 for non members

Plant Health Care
$300 AMTOPP members
$425 for non members

Ground Crew Academy
$300 AMTOPP members
$425 for non members

AMTOPP office: (406) 204-0100 - amtopp@amtopp.org

Rigging Operations

Instructors: Academy Trained from California with Jared Abrojena, Lawrence Shultz, Johnny Korthius.

Throughout this course we will cover a variety of rigging techniques used in our industry which will allow you to push your skills to the highest level. Whether it be speed line, span rigging, vertical speed line, lifting techniques, double-block rigging, or just focusing on basic rigging, this course covers it all.

- Advanced rigging techniques
    - Negative rigging
    - Positive rigging
    - Speed line
    - Vertical speed line
    - Lifting techniques

AMTOPP MEMBER – $650; NON-MEMBER – $775 (INCLUDES LUNCH, SNACKS, AND BEVERAGES BOTH DAYS)

Basic Tree Climbing

Instructors: Dave Stice, WesSpur/Ascension Northwest; and Nick Merriman Merriman's Northwest LLC.

The target audience for this class is ground workers beginning their transition to apprentice climbers. This is a hands-on course will cover: basic equipment selection and inspection for novice climbers, rope construction and selection, basic knots for tree workers, inspecting the tree for hazards, tie-in-points, and navigation, spur climbing, using Moving Rope Systems, and lastly working the tree.

- Basic Climbing Equipment Selection and Inspection
- Ropes: Types of Construction, Selection, and Knots
- Pre-Climb Tree Inspection: Hazards, Tie-in-Points, and Route Finding
- Spur Climbing: When and How to Use Spurs, Fliplines, and Tying into a Spar
- Throwline Techniques and Setting Climb Lines

Prior to the class, students need to learn and **be proficient tying the following knots**: scaffold knot (sometimes referred to as double fisherman's), Blake's Hitch/Michoacon, English Prussic, Klemheist, alpine butterfly, clove hitch, slippery half-hitch, sheet bend, bowline, running bowline, bowline with Yosemite tie-off, and figure 8.

AMTOPP MEMBER – $400; NON-MEMBER – $525 (INCLUDES LUNCH, SNACKS, AND BEVERAGES BOTH DAYS)

Ground Crew Academy

Prepare your ground crew for tree work with this comprehensive course that covers many aspects of ground based tree work.

The course is made up of a variety of classes that include the following:

- Aerial Lift SetUp/Inspection/Operation
- Chipper Safety
- Ground Based Operations
- Small tree planting and pruning

Instructors: Michael Weible, Altec; Tom Molitor, BIG TWIG Forestry; Spencer Andrews, FMI Equipment, and Patrick Plantenberg, MUCFA

Aerial Lift Setup/Inspections/Operations – This is an osha and ansi-led familiarization course. The course will summarize and familiarize safety guidelines for proper safe setup of aerial units, safe operating procedures, and present essential important information for those with an open mind for safety as it pertains to your individual job needs that can prevent serious work related injuries and can ultimately save your life or that of a co-worker. Topics will include statements and osha regulations; aerial device daily unit inspection; traveling, job briefing; unit setup and pre-operational inspection; unit operation; line-clearance tree trimming; and iso-grip ™ system.

Chipper Safety – In depth class including practical and written material on chipper safety. Participants achieving a passing score will receive a certificate. The goal is to ensure everyone goes home safely at the end of the day.

Ground Based Operations – An overview of ground based operations for tree work. Truck and trailer safety, tree machinery loading/unloading. Outlining a plan for tree operations in urban settings. Groundman responsibilities to include: Basic Chainsaw operations and safety. Arborist tools to assist aerial operations. Basic Tree Falling.

Small Tree Planting and Pruning *– Planting* will cover basics of how to plant trees properly including site selection concerns, potential soil sampling needs ahead of time, proper tree selection for the site, proper preparation the planting hole, potential amendments to the excavated soil, proper pruning and preparation of the container or B&B tree to be planted, proper watering at the time of planting, proper staking of the new tree and fencing if needed, and proper mulching.

Pruning will cover how to properly prune young trees. What tree is it? Is this the right time of the year to prune this species? The tools needed and how to sharpen and sanitize tools before beginning will be covered. The steps to complete pruning will be covered including how to develop tree structure over the first 5 years of the tree's life; removing any dead or broken branches, removing suckers, removing crossing limbs or limbs heading for trouble in the near future, establishing or reestablishing a central leader will be stressed, and establishing scaffold branching over time. (Each attendee in this class will receive a copy of the Trees Are Good 'New Tree Planting' brochure.)

AMTOPP MEMBER – $300; NON-MEMBER – $425 (INCLUDES LUNCH, SNACKS, AND BEVERAGES BOTH DAYS)

Plant Health Care

Instructor: Hannah Hampton, Rainbow Ecoscience

In this 2 day class we will cover many aspects of plant health care. We will cover the diagnostic process, IPM and various PHC tools, how to read a label, when and where to apply pesticides, and common pest and disease issues along with their solutions. During this presentation we will also discuss the business aspect of PHC. We will talk about how to develop a culture of PHC at our company, pricing strategies, treatment calendars and client conversations. The second day of this course will include hands on demos of equipment and application techniques. We will be doing an interactive diagnostic walk and preparing for real world scenarios.

AMTOPP MEMBER – $300; NON-MEMBER – $425 (INCLUDES LUNCH, SNACKS, AND BEVERAGES BOTH DAYS)

Registration Online at www.amtopp.org click on Summer Workshops and scroll to the bottom for the link.

Hotel Information

We have various hotels with room blocks for AMTOPP's Summer Workshops, July 25-26, with check out on the 27. There are room taxes and fees for rooms that are not reflected in the base rate.
The cut off for the rates and blocks is from July 1 to July 7 depending on the hotel.

There are limited number of rooms set up, so you might have to try a different one, if no rooms are available when making reservations.

Reference: AMTOPP for the group rate

Red Lion Inn & Suites - Rate $95 per night
122005 Nissler Rd., I-90 West to exit #122
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 782-5678

Super 8 by Wyndham - Rate $140 per night
2929 Harrison Ave
Butte, MT 59701
please make reservations through this online link
URL : bit.ly/3QXsGtw

Comfort Inn City Center - Rate $165 per night
2777 Harrison Ave (1/15/1-90 MT 419)
Butte, MT
(406) 494-8850
(reservation link below goes into the group rate site)
https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/JT37W7

Fairmont Hot Springs Resort - Rate Single/Double - $239.00; Triple - $254.00; Quad - $269.00
1500 Fairmont Rd
Fairmont, MT
1-800-332-3272
www.fairmontmontana.com Group Code: 31661

AMTOPP 2025 Summer Workshops/Conference

Check In - 7 - 7:45 AM at Stodden Park - 600 Gillamn Ave, Butte, MT

Gear and Other Required Items for Classes

Rigging Operations

Climbing gear
Required (PPE) Personal Protective equipment: ie footwear (boots), helmet, work attire, safety glasses and ear protection
Personal climbing gear must pass gear inspection prior to use.

One (1) year climbing experience required.

Rigging equipment will be provided.

Basic Tree Climbing

Equipment to use will be provided, however it is encouraged to bring your own if you have any that you plan to use.

Prior to class: students need to learn and **be proficient tying the following knots**: scaffold knot (sometimes referred to as double fisherman's), Blake's Hitch/Michoacon, English Prussic, Klemheist, alpine butterfly, clove hitch, slippery half-hitch, bowline, running bowline, bowline with Yosemite tie-off, and figure 8.

Chipper Safety

Required PPE:
Chipper Operators - Helmet, eye protection, hearing protection, gloves, appropriate footwear

Chainsaw Operators - Helmet, eye protection, hearing protection, gloves, appropriate footwear and chainsaw chaps

Summer Workshop Registration

July 26-27, 2025 **Butte MT**

Pre Registration Required - No Walk Ins
Check in at Stodden Park: 600 Gilman Ave, Butte, MT 59701

Company Name: (as it should appear on badge)_____

Contact name:_____

Address: _____**City:** _____**State:** _____**Zip:** _____

Cell: _____**Phone:** _____**Email address:** _____

Website: _____

If you are NOT a member and wish to sign up complete this section and take advantage of the member rates. Membership Section for Regular and Associate - New and Renewal		
Membership Regular - has a pesticide license	$115 per company	$
Membership Associate - no pesticide license	$50 per company	
	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	$

Summer Workshops				
	AMTOPP Member	Non Member	Number Attending	Workshop Total
Rigging Operations	650	775		$
Basic Tree Climbing	400	525		$
Ground Crew Academy	400	425		$
Plant Healthcare	300	425		$
			TOTAL	$

Grand Total - Membership/Workshops	$

Please list those attending each course and circle the letter for the class: **R-Rigging; C-Climbing; G-Ground; P-Plant Healthcare**

(1)R/C/G/P_____ 2) R/C/G/P_____

3) R/C/G/P_____ 4) R/C/G/P_____

5) R/C/G/P_____ 6) R/C/G/P_____

7)R/C/G/P_____ 8)R/C/G/P_____

9) R/C/G/P_____ 10) R/C/G/P_____

11) R/C/G/P_____ 12) R/C/G/P_____

Workshop registration includes attendance to the course, lunch, snacks, and water both days.

Please make checks payable to AMTOPP. Mail completed form with check to: AMTOPP, 173 Cottonwood Rd., Townsend, MT 59644-9533.

You may pay with a credit card through PayPal on the website: www.amtopp.org. *Note: there is a 5% convenience fee for all credit card charges.*

NO REFUNDS AFTER July 11 , 2025

Please note: All classes, sessions, speakers, and time are subject to change without prior notice.
Limited spots for all courses

Signature_____ **Date** _____

Credit Card Payment: Name on Card: _____

Number: _____-_____-_____-_____ Exp. Date: _____ Sec Code: _____

Billing Address (if different from above) :_____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip Code: _____

Your signature above authorizes payment by this credit card. *A 5% convenience fee will be added to all CC charges.*

*For AMTOPP Office use: Date Paid*_____*Check #*_____*/PayPal ID #:* _____

Added to: Membership File: _____ *1990 to Present File:* _____ *Registration:* _____ *QB:* _____

AMTOPP
173 Cottonwood Rd
Townsend, MT 59644